

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments claims 1, 4, 10, 23 and 26 will have been amended, and claims 3, 5 and 25 and 27 will have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9-13, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present amendments, reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 3 and 5, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Applicant further notes that claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 3 and 5, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Applicant further notes that claim 23 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 25 and 27, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable.

Applicant notes that the present amendments merely incorporate subject matter, which the Examiner has previously indicated as being allowable, into the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present amendments are proper for entry after a Final Official Action, and respectfully request entry of the amendments at this time.

On pages 2-3 of the Official Action, claims 1, 6, 9, 23, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and on pages 4-8 of the Official Action, claims 2-4, 10-13 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a).

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 3 and 5, claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 3 and 5, and claim 23 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 25 and 27, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant notes that the Examiner has previously acknowledged that the prior art of record does not teach nor suggest the subject matter recited in the claims as presently amended. Applicant submits that the current rejections are improper. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections, and an early indication of the allowability of all of the pending claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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